

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

Project Details

1. Project title:

Oregon Community Health Assessment Partnership (CHAP)

2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):

Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-4501

3. Contact information

- a. **Project's primary contact:** Kate Sinner, OSU Federal Relations Director
- b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** 541-737-4514/ [REDACTED]
- c. **Email Address:** kate.sinner@oregonstate.edu
- d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address): Local health departments throughout Oregon

4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.

Oregon State University is one of only two U.S. universities designated a land grant, sea grant, space grant and sun grant institution. Its more than 21,900 students come from all 50 states and more than 80 countries. OSU programs touch every county within Oregon, and its faculty teach and conduct research on issues of national and global significance.

5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?

Public Research University

6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?

Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Improvement and Leadership Account

7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).

Local health departments (LHDs) in Oregon lack the technical and scientific capacity to assess population health status and public health needs – a statutory obligation of Oregon Public Health Division (OPHD) and LHDs. The 2008 capacity assessment conducted by the Association of Oregon Counties and the Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) identified the greatest gaps for LHDs as their ability to: 1) discover and evaluate innovations in community public health systems, 2) develop data-driven plans and policies and 3) assess community health outcomes and investments. As a land grant university, OSU Extension has the infrastructure for epidemiologist consultation to assist OPHD and LHDs in remediating the community health assessment, planning and evaluation gaps above.

Together with OSU Extension Service, OPHD, and CLHO, the OSU College of Health and Human Sciences will complete development of the Oregon Community Health Assessment Partnership. Partners will: (1) conduct community health assessments, (2) achieve continuous improvement in effectiveness of a web-based community health data clearinghouse, (3) establish a practice-based research and assessment partnership, (4) conduct workforce development training conferences for county public health staff about community health assessment and program evaluation and (5) establish local cooperative agreements among county public health departments and OSU Extension offices to maximize county, state and federal investments. The project will establish a new model for inter-agency cooperation that is expected to improve efficiency among county, state and federal public health and human service programs. It will lay the groundwork for developing OSU's Office of Public Health Improvement, which will work in tandem with existing Extension programs.

OSU Department of Public Health will provide technical assistance to six LHDs to conduct a health needs assessment or program evaluation on a topic of each community's choosing. The Conference of Local Health Officials will assist in identifying counties interested and ready to participate in the project. Working with its county Extension office, each LHD will convene community stakeholders to prepare a research plan for an identified health question and conduct community-based, participatory research. Epidemiologist consultation and technical assistance will be provided on-site and on-line. Each participating county Extension office will be assigned an MPH graduate student to help conduct the health needs assessment with the LHD through an internship under OSU faculty supervision. Results of each health needs assessment will be translated into a policy recommendation and presented for consideration to County Commissioners acting as the local board of health.

This project is the capstone needed to acquire computer equipment and secure a statewide interactive clearinghouse (database) to store health needs assessment and health status data. The clearinghouse will provide shared access to health assessment data for participating local health departments. Finally, funds will be used to conduct a workforce development training conference for LHD employees and Extension personnel seeking to enhance or acquire expertise in needs assessment and program evaluation.

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

It is a federal responsibility to promote and protect population health through a robust and efficient public health system. To that end, this project serves as a national model for applying Extension Service academic resources in local public health systems. OSU Department of Public Health faculty are housed in county extension offices to help conduct community health assessments and ultimately facilitate synergy of federal programs (e.g., WIC, DHHS Programs, SNAP) at the community service level. The interactive clearinghouse connects a learning community of county public health employees with state health division and academic resources for ongoing workforce development and practice improvement. It establishes a system for statewide consultation and technical assistance to assist in accreditation of Oregon's LHDs and lays the foundation for a practice-based research and assessment network. This project supports county, state and federal agencies in Oregon to address the fragmentation of our system through public health partnerships.

The field of public health has become technologically complex. Many mid-career practitioners lack skills in evaluation and assessment required by federally-funded public health programs. The

proposed project not only provides workforce development training, but also engages county employees in professional education. OSU faculty will assist county partners in completion of community health assessments. Community health assessments will provide partial funding for 12 positions at risk in six Oregon counties. The resulting data will be applied to policy decisions necessary to develop a fully functioning public health system in Oregon, calculated in 2008 to require an additional 394 FTE (\$69.4 million/yr) statewide. Training will create a workforce with more contemporary and marketable skills. Health is one of the growing sectors of Oregon's economy. This project provides needs assessment data plus workforce capacity and professional development needed to drive that economic engine in counties.

Project funds will be used to support employment of: OSU and PH experts providing technical assistance in epidemiology, biostatistics and assessment; County PH employees conducting assessment projects in LHDs; instructors conducting training conferences related to assessments for local public health and Extension Service staff; and computer programmer time needed for improvement of the interactive public health data clearinghouse (database). With computer equipment purchased through this project, the clearinghouse, currently under development by the Oregon Public Health Division, will provide shared access to health assessment data for participating local health departments. Demonstrations in counties will help to refine the clearinghouse for usability and sustainability in the future.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

No

9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

N/A

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$300,000

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

	Federal	In-kind Match	Source
<u>Personnel:</u>			
Assoc. Dean Extension, CHHS	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,000	OSU Extension
Consulting Epidemiologist	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,000	OSU CHHS
Administrative/Grad. Assistant	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,000	OSU CHHS
Research Analyst - Data Manager	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,000	OPHD/OSU CHHS
 Professional & Capacity Development:			
Workforce Development Training Conference	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	OSU & NWHF
Ext. Agent Training Conferences	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	OSU Extension
Office supplies, expenses, space	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	OSU CHHS
Computer hardware (servers) and programming	\$ 30,000		

Six Community Health Assessments:

LHD Staff 6 @ \$13,000 ea	\$ 60,000	\$ 18,000	LHDs
Ext. Staff 6 @ \$13,000 ea	\$ 60,000	\$ 18,000	Co. Extension
MPH intern stipend & travel (6 @ \$5,000 ea.)	\$ 30,000	\$ 6,000	Students-In-Service

12. What is the total cost of the project?

\$300,000

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?

Yes, with level of activity directly related to level of funding.

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

\$150,000 of in-kind contributions from State of Oregon (OSU Faculty, OSU Extension Faculty, Oregon Public Health Division) and Local Health Departments will be contributed to the project. It is anticipated that the Northwest Health Foundation will provide upwards of \$5,000 to support the Workforce Development Training Conference. In addition, MPH Intern stipend support is anticipated from the Students-In-Service Program.

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.

- Oregon Public Health Division (OPHD)
- Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)
- Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO)
- Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF)
- Hood River County Health Department
- Benton County Health Department